

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-7 and 16-28 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4 and 16 are amended and claims 20-22 are added. Claims 20-22 are added to recite subject matter previously recited in claims 1, 4 and 16. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 4 and 16 can be found, at least, in Fig. 5 and page 10, line 26 to page 13, line 21 of Applicants' specification. Support for added claims 23-28 can be found, at least, on page 24, line 2 to page 33, line 6 of Applicant's specification. No new matter is added.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Dicker and Examiner Haskins at the interview held August 13, 2009, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below, which constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

Claims 1-7 and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,101,243 to Kim in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,253,079 to Nakatani et al. ("Nakatani") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,609,162 to Shimizu et al. ("Shimizu"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 1, 4 and 16, as amended, substantially recite "a rule management unit that creates and manages rules relating to processing tasks for the predetermined series of processes on document data, the rules being dynamically created based upon capturing destinations, processing methods, and distribution destinations for the service processing system." Neither Kim nor Nakatani disclose or suggest this feature.

Using the rejection of claim 1 for illustrative purposes, Kim discloses a system for transmitting a facsimile document when an error is generated during communication. See Abstract of Kim. Kim discloses two communication modes where the system appropriately handles error processing when an error in communication occurs. See col. 4, lines 19-27 of Kim. In the first mode, the system scans in all of the document data into memory and then

transmits the data to a destination device. See col. 4, lines 19-24 of Kim. In a second mode, the system scans image data from the document according to a specific data transfer protocol. See col. 4, lines 24-27 of Kim.

Kim discloses that if there is an error in transmission, the system processes the remaining document data and transmits the non-error data to the destination. See col. 5, lines 1-14 of Kim. The system can then retransmit only the pages where errors occurred in order to prevent duplicate transmission and to reduce overall costs of communication. See col. 5, lines 35-46 of Kim. However, this is not the same as creating distinct processing rules in a multi-function device and then performing distinct recovery processes based upon a particular rule. As explained during the personal interview, Kim is merely re-transmitting only the pages where errors occurred in order to prevent duplicate transmission and not a robust set of recovery processes based upon a particular set of rules for a multi-function device.

Nakatani discloses a facsimile device for receiving code data transmitted by another facsimile device. See Abstract of Nakatani. Nakatani achieves this by using a compression/expansion device 36 to compress/expand incoming data. See Fig. 1 and col. 3, lines 31-37 of Nakatani. Nakatani discloses an error detection process when compressed data is transmitted to a particular destination. See col. 6, lines 21-25 of Nakatani. When the error level reaches a particular threshold, an error message is transmitted to the sending device. See col. 6, lines 41-51 of Nakatani. However, as explained during the personal interview, similar to Kim, Nakatani is merely detecting errors in transmission and either sending error signals back to the sending device or re-transmitting the particular data to the destination device. Therefore, Nakatani does not disclose a robust system that creates rules for image/data processing and then carries out recovery procedures dependent upon the nature of the processing and the particular rule.

By contrast, claim 1, as amended, recites a "rule management unit that creates and manages rules relating to processing tasks for the predetermined series of processes on document data, the rules being dynamically created based upon capturing destinations, processing methods, and distribution destinations for the service processing system." Neither Kim nor Nakatani disclose this feature of claim 1, nor do they disclose the similar features of claims 4 and 16. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 4 and 16, and claims 2, 3, 5-7 and 17-19 depending therefrom, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

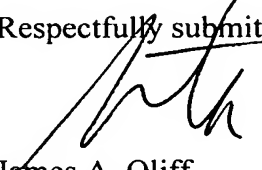
Claims 20-22 depend from claims 1, 4 and 16. As explained above, neither Kim nor Nakatani disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1, 4 and 16, nor does Shimizu supply the subject matter lacking in Kim or Nakatani. Therefore, claims 20-22 are in condition for allowance based on their dependence from claims 1, 4 and 16, and for the separately patentable subject matter they recite.


Finally, claims 23-28 are added as new claims, with claims 23, 25, and 27 being independent claims. Applicant's respectfully submit that neither Kim, nor Nakatani, nor Shimizu disclose or suggest the features recited in claims 23-28. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 23-28 are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-7 and 16-28 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Attachment:  
Amendment Transmittal

Date: October 2, 2009

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